

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04805 021615Z

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN BUYER GROUPS TO U.S. - OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE (OTC)

REF: USDOC 3452

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY THAT GROUP CONSISTING OF SIX PERSONS HEADED BY DEPUTY MINISTER MESHEVICH TENTATIVELY PLANNING ATTEND OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING GOGROUP'S PLANS RESULT OF FACT THAT MESHEVICH SCHEDULED VISIT JAPAN DURING LATTER PART OF APRIL AND MAY NOT RETURN TO MOSCOW IN TIME MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP TO HOUSTON. MINISTRY ADVISED THAT IF MESHEVICH NOT ABLE PARTICIPATE, GROUP WILL NOT RPT NOT TRAVEL.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM BAKER OIL TOOLS REPS CURRENTLY IN MOSCOW THAT MESHEVICH PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE WITHIN MINISTRY FOR ALL DRILLING OPERATIONS. AS SUCH, BAKER VERY INTERESTED IN MESHEVICH'S VISIT AND IS ENCOURAGING HIM TO ATTEND OTC. LOCAL DRESSER INDUSTRIES REP NEUDACHIN ALSO INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR MESHEVICH'S VISIT.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THAT INTERESTED US FIRMS SUCH AS BAKER AND DRESSER WILL ARRANGE FULL PROGRAM FOR MESHEVICH, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE OFFER ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ASSIST THIS GROUP AS NEEDED. IF COMMERCE CONCURS, EMBASSY CAN ADVISE MINISTRY OF OUR INTEREST

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04805 021615Z

IN MESHEVICH'S VISIT AND READINESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.

4. MINISTRY OF GAS INDUSTRY, WHICH OTHER LOGICAL CANDIDATE
FOR SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO OTC, ADVISES THAT IT HAS
NO CURRENT PLANS TO DO SO. ON THIS BASIS, WE ASSUME THAT
MESHEVICH DELEGATION WILL BE ONLY SOVIET PARTICIPANTS.
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